

Crewkerne

WEEKENDER

Issue 14 December 31 2010



**THUMBS UP
FOR THE
WEEKENDER**

Everybody's reading it!



*New Year greetings
from the Mayor*

- page 3



Hunt with no horses

- page 4

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weekender announcements

Happy 60th Birthday to Cheryl Beckett
with love from
all the family xx

Very Happy 16th Birthday Lydia
Love from all the family

Happy 9th Birthday on 3rd Jan Aidian Williams
Love Nan and Grandad xx

Happy Birthday to Palwasha Gill from David, Qezia, Fiza, Meerab, Ryan and all the family x

ELLA MAI FOWLER
To our dear daughter on her 1st birthday on the 29th December, with all our love from Mummy & Daddy xx

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To our dearest little Granddaughter and niece. Have a lovely day, from Nanna & Grumps and Uncle Adam & Grace xx

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Monday 3rd Jan
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Tuesday 4th Jan
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Low 1°

Wednesday 5th Jan
Partly cloudy
High 4°
Low 1°

Thursday 6th Jan
Partly cloudy
High 4°
Low 1°

Please remember to recycle this newspaper

Website of the week

www.clos.org.uk

Chard Light Operatic Society

CHARD Light Operatic Society (CLOS) was formed in 1961, by a group of like-minded individuals with interests in acting, singing and dancing. The society gave its first production in 1962. Through the dedication and perseverance of its members it grew in size and has put on an annual production ever since.

Over the years CLOS has won a variety of prestigious theatrical awards and is recognised among the community for the quality of its productions. CLOS is a member of the National Operatic and Drama Association (NODA)

See page 8

New year greetings to the town



■ THE Mayor of Crewkerne Councillor Neil Sturtivant

The Mayor of Crewkerne Councillor Neil Sturtivant offers a message to the town for the New Year

I hope that everyone has had a pleasurable Christmas. My first term as mayor this year has been a huge learning experience for me and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow town councillors and the town hall staff for all their help and support. Crewkernians never cease to amaze me; there are a large number of people who give their time and energy voluntarily to a variety of groups, clubs and organisations, without thought of personal gain and their only aim is to see a better town and improve the lives of others.

There is talk by the Government of the Big Community and that people should be helping others. Take note David and Nick, this is

already happening here and has been for a long time. Well done Crewkernians.

I am writing this before Christmas and seeing all this snow makes me think of the people that cannot easily cope in this weather, especially the elderly. Please look out for anyone that may need help this winter; it may continue being another harsh one.

As we found out towards the end of 2010, next year will be a challenging year for Crewkerne with the anticipated reduction of services from the district and county councils. Although I understand that savings need to be made, the town council and I will be working tirelessly to try to ensure that Crewkerne keeps

as many of its services as possible.

The first challenge in the New Year is the continuing work to try to save our recycling centre. With nearly 7,000 signatures to the petition, it shows that the majority of people would like to keep it open, even if it had restricted opening hours.

It can be difficult in these times of austerity to forget the things that are most important in life; health, family and friendship. These are not controlled by the government, councils or companies and cannot be bought, so I would encourage you to concentrate on these important aspects of your life.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy

Crewkerne news

Plans withdrawn

A PLANNING application for internal and external alterations at the Baptist Church in North Street, Crewkerne, has been withdrawn.

The proposal which included a request to convert the disused Sunday School into four flats had been deferred by the town council for a site meeting and revised plans.

The decision on the development of 100 houses on the Bradfords site, which went appeal at Area West, was due on December 27th but is still pending.

Festival success

CREWKERNE'S first Christmas tree festival held at St Bartholomew's Church was hailed a success.

Despite the bad weather around £800 in donations was raised, which will be split between the church roof fund and Help for Heroes.

The organisers would like to thank all who participated and donated to what they hope will become a regular event.

Waste collection

SOMERSET Waste Partnership efforts are being focused on scheduled collections, with no further catch-ups.

There will be no collection on Monday January 3rd and from Tuesday onwards will be one day behind as is normal after a Bank Holiday.

Award-winning teen volunteers to triple local youth activities

SOUTH Petherton's award winning team of six teenage volunteers plan to triple opportunities for young people in South Somerset.

In November 2009 the group set up and ran the "Fun Time Friday" junior youth club for eight to 11 year olds. Since then they have volunteered over 1,000 hours running school holiday events, put on activities for local children and have even helped run a youth club in a neighbouring village in Tatworth for three months to save it from closure.

Now they have begun a new venture to plan new provision for youngsters in Chard, Ilminster and Crewkerne. The original team of six has already expanded with over 18 keen young people coming forward to volunteer and they began working with the towns' youth club management committees in December.

Their work has been funded and supported by South Somerset District Council, Active Skills and Learning, South Somerset Together, NHS Somerset, South Petherton Parish Council and Somerset County Council.

Pete May of the not-for-profit youth organisation Active Learning & Skills said: "This is a really exciting time for the group, and their success is very much deserved. It just shows what can be achieved if young people who want to make a difference are listened to, trusted and supported."

South Somerset District Council Young People's Officer helped train the group when they first began, to show them how to run activities and coach their own sports events. Councillor Sylvia Seal, the district councillor Leisure Portfolio Holder said: "These young people are excellent examples of what Young Community Champions can achieve when given the support, leadership and motivation and the district council is pleased to continue backing them."

This year has seen the team win the Voluntary Team

of the Year award in the district council's prestigious annual Gold Star awards and successfully secure a further £8,400 from the county council's 2010 Youth Opportunity Fund. The funding will allow them to recruit, train and support even more young people in towns and villages across South Somerset to allow them to develop new activities.

Young people and youth clubs or groups who want to know more or get support from the project should contact Pete May on 01460 64509 / 07711 244357 or pete.may@als-cic.org as soon as possible.

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Workshop for activists

ILMINSTER Quakers are offering a special workshop for "keen greens" and campaigners for peace and fairness.

The workshop is supported by South Somerset Climate Action and South Somerset Peace Group and is called "Achieving Change".

It will take place on Saturday, January 29th, at Greenfylde School, Ilminster, from 9.30am - 4.30pm.

The workshop will be led by Sue Bowers an experienced mediator and trainer. For many years Sue has been involved with the Oxford Research Group which works to promote a more sustainable approach to security.

Since 1982, ORG has been building trust between policy-makers, academics, the military and civil society and the programme for the day will be based on its work.

Send applications with £15 payable to Ilminster Quakers, Achieving Change Workshop, Old School House, North Perrott, Crewkerne TA18 7SG. Or call Joe Burlington 01460 55323.

Scam alert

RESIDENTS of the Crewkerne Chard and Ilminster area are being warned of a telephone scam saying they are eligible for thousands of pounds in benefits or council tax.

South Somerset District Council was contacted by a diligent member of the public, who reported that a man with an Indian accent had called them and claimed that they qualified for £7,000 as they had "no outstanding debts".

The caller left a telephone number beginning with 02081, for the customer to call to claim the money and presumably provide bank details or pay a premium rate for the phone call.

This is a scam and SSDC are warning residents to be on their guard.

SouthSomersetnews



■ **SMALL MEET:** Master of Seavington Hunt, Jereme Darke, whipper-in Tony Collins and huntsman John Macey

Hunts with no horses

By Marion Draper

SEAVINGTON Hunt was reduced to hounds only for the traditional Boxing Day meet in Crewkerne this year, along with many others across the country.

Despite the overnight thaw, the conditions were still too dangerous for horses, with water sitting over ice patches and many horse boxes unable to make the journey.

Disappointed horse lovers in the crowd, gathered along the town's Market Street, had to be satisfied with a different spectacle and clapped and cheered as huntsman John Macey and whipper-in Tony Collins ran with the

hounds out of town, closely followed by master Jereme Darke and other members of the hunt, all on foot.

A similar scene was laid out in Chard and Ilminster as both the Cotley Harriers and the Taunton Vale Hunt also left their horses in the stables.

In Chard there was a small anti-hunting demonstration as the hunt supporters are still hoping for a repeal of the anti-hunting bill in Parliament.



■ **COTLEY HUNT** brought the foxhounds in to Chard town centre on Monday, December 27th. There was a good turnout of people to watch the hunts master and his team bring the hounds down in on foot.
Photo by KEITH RENDELL

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■ WE LOVE A GOOD READ: One class at Merriott First School



■ CHATTERBOXES: A row of narrators in the church

Sparkling in the sky

HINTON St George Church of England First School held their Christmas nativity called Sparkle in St George's Church.

Many of the schools have moved away from the traditional Nativity play to give more parts for the children but they always have a moral to them and have the birth of Jesus included in the plot.

By Marion Draper

At Hinton, the large cast with several narrators, told the story of a little star that wanted to shine the best that she could to be picked for the important job in Bethlehem and involved an array of different characters along the way.



■ STARRY STORY: Hinton St George School pupils, the cast of Sparkle

Sharing the reading experience

MERRIOTT School pupils are sharing their love of storybooks with children in Africa. As part of this year's World Book Week, the whole school brought in books to donate to the Jole Rider charity Books4Africa learning development project.

Many African schools have few or no books and libraries are almost non-existent. Blackboards are often the only teaching aid and this

severely limits learning, literacy and creativity. A Story Book Day is a way for people in a business, organisation or church to help Jole Rider transform bare library shelves into a world of endless imagination. People are invited to bring just one or two story books, along with a 50p contribution with each title to help transport the books over to The Gambia and to fund librarians and library furniture.

They are also invited to write a personal message for the book's next reader and paste their message inside it.

The school had a collection at their carol concert which raised £70 to send the books on their way and the children were really pleased that they could share their love of a good story with the children in Africa.



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■ **OVERALL WINNERS:** Round Tabler Tim Hill presents the cup to Dave Rowe, Steve Hurley and Matthew Bryant with daughters Grace and Tess

WINNER of the pub cup at the Crewkerne annual Boxing Day pram race, Oscars Wine Bar, is laying down the gauntlet to other pubs in the town.

Landlord Richard Hall, whose customers have helped to keep the spirit of the Crewkerne and District Round Table's annual race alive over the last few years, said: "The only reason we keep winning the pub cup, is because we are the only ones who enter, where are all the other pubs?"

A huge crowd turned out to watch the Boxing Day fun, with spectators standing several deep all along Market Street.

Nine prams lined up created in varied and imaginative design with teams in the usual silly costumes. Last year's winners Merriott Ladies took an early lead, but after the last turn, lost their edge to overall winners The Running Club Rejects.

Hot on their heels in third were Barmy Army.

Ladies winners, the GI Janes were late starters and more interested in the entertainment value to the crowd than a race, all in the true spirit of the occasion.

The race celebrated its 50th anniversary last year and at one stage almost died out through lack of entries. In its heyday the event enjoyed several fancy dress novelty teams as well as the more serious racers, representing pubs, associations and sporting clubs.

It has always been a good draw, bringing people from far and wide into the town, many of whom stay and have a drink in the pubs afterwards.

The Round Table have already said the race could be under threat if they do not get more members to their club and Mr Hal, who was determined to run despite having the flu over Christmas, said the local publicans should step up and support the tradition if it was to continue and grow.



■ **EARLY LEAD:** 2009 winners Merriott Ladies, Nick Sale, Jim King and Toby Larkin



■ **PUB CHAMPS:** Oscars Wine Bar landlord Richard Hall with Round Tabler Paul Stabbins and team members Steve Hassall and William Draper

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to the pram race challenge



■ **STARTERS ORDERS:** The 51st Crewkerne and District Round Table pram race



■ **FIRST LADIES:** The GI Janes, Fiona Lambert, Charlotte Brown, Mad Shave and Bea Power accept the prize from Round Table chairman Chris Gasson



■ **RUN:** The GI Janes in action

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Club of the Month: Chard Light Operatic Society

FORMED in 1961 by a group of Holyrood old scholars, Chard Light Operatic Society has grown into a large group of like-minded people of all ages who enjoy the call of the musical theatre.

Founder member Betty Vercoe said the interest had been sparked as early as 1951 by the then headmaster of the school, Mr Ashman who was very keen on Gilbert and Sullivan.

The first show per-

formed by CLOS in 1962 was *The Geisha* and the average age of the group in the beginning was only 19. Now with original members still involved and youngsters coming up the age range is from the early 20s upwards.

There are about 50 members of the society with an average of 35 actually on stage for a production. They meet at Crowshute House on Mondays and Thursdays from 7.30-9.30pm where they have a workshop in the basement. Main productions tend to alternate between Gilbert and Sullivan and other musicals, fundraising is achieved by performing smaller concerts throughout the year which they take around the villages.

Pauline Case, then Whitehead, was the first leading lady, she said: "When we started we all used to do the scenery and carry it down through the town from the old Congregational Hall. That's gone now, some of our costumes are rented and some sourced here and there, we are always looking for more, especially uniforms. We share a wardrobe and our workshop facilities with CATS."

President Helen Webber said there was more to the group than just being on the stage and there are many members who work behind the scenes,

whether it be front of house jobs or stage work.

She commented: "It is the joy of singing, but we are a nice friendly group and we can really get out of ourselves. Singing is very uplifting and at Christmas we go to the residential homes, we find they really enjoy the trip down memory lane.

"We welcome anyone,

even if they can't sing. We are always wanting dressers to help with the quick changes, or even someone to turn the pages for the musicians. There are plenty of jobs behind the scenes."

Mrs Case added: "I enjoy that everyone mixes in, regardless of age. My all-time favourite to perform would be

Die Fledermaus but I can't see us doing that for a while; we all have our dreams.

"We welcome all abilities and try to keep going all year round with concerts and a bit of supper. If you don't meet regularly you lose touch and people find something different to do."

After years of perform-

ing at the Guildhall, the society returned to Holyrood Academy for their last show, *The Music Man*, and were pleased to be back in a facility with its own parking.

Anyone interested in joining CLOS can contact Neil Wells on 01460 234100 chardlightoperatic@btconnect.com



■ RECENT PERFORMANCE: The CLOS cast of the *Music Man*



■ COME AND JOIN US: Some of the members of Chard Light Operatic Society



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Altogether in celebration

SWANMEAD School in Ilminster enjoyed a Christmas Community Celebration hosted by the school association. Pupils, teachers and members of the local community joined together for an evening of song, dance and recitals. *Photos by MARION DRAPER*



■ HOW TO FELL THE MIGHTY: Nine year old Ellis Jordan with Ben Harms from Kenpo UK



■ MUSICAL SWEETHEARTS: Richard Roderigo and Maggie Griffiths from Cloverleaf Productions

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Solicitors go green

■ A RECEPTION was held to celebrate the recent opening of the new Chard office for Pardoes solicitors in Howards Row.

Guests were treated to an evening of green cocktails and green canapés, served by a green Christmas elf.

Charlotte Rescorla, conveyancing solicitor at Pardoes, who has taken up residence in the Chard office, wanted the theme to be green.

She said: "Being green is very much part of the Pardoes ethos."

"Not just because our livery is green but because Pardoes is a business committed to our countryside, the community and our environment."

Pictured are Pardoes staff offering green cocktails and canapés at their recent grand opening reception.



■ CHRISTMAS CHEER: The Girls' Choir greet the visitors

Christmas farewell for headteacher

HEADTEACHER of Maiden Beech School, John Broad made a farewell performance in the school's own version of "A Christmas Carol" as the end of his last term at the Crewkerne middle school.

Set in a staff room, Mr Broad was the Scrooge character taken on a journey through the school's past.

The festive evening was organised by the

Maiden Beech Association and consisted of a mixture of recitals both musical and spoken, showing the high degree of talent in the school.

Visitors were greeted by carol singing outside the entrance and mulled wine and mince pies to put them in the right mood. It was a delightful evening, full of fun and festive nonsense, enjoyed by all.



■ ACTING UP: Head teacher John Broad playing Scrooge to teacher Paul Richards



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Carols and Classics Concert a great success

DESPITE adverse weather conditions, the Carols and Classics Concert at All Saints Church, Merriott just before Christmas was a great success. A stunning performance by London Classical Music students was given at the Concert to an intrepid audience of over 120. The London based music students provided an enthralling evening of entertainment with a repertoire covering Classical music, festive jolliness, and audience participation in the singing of seasonal Carols.

The candlelit setting within the All Saints Church provided a magical evening where students representing the leading London Music Conservatoires performed a selection of excerpts from classical works. To the delight of the audience, encores for both the 1st and 2nd halves were given, based on festive variations arranged by Joseph Fisher a final year student



at the London Royal Academy of Music. Joseph, who comes from Merriott, had persuaded 5 other students to perform a repeat of his previous year's successful Carols & Classics concert.

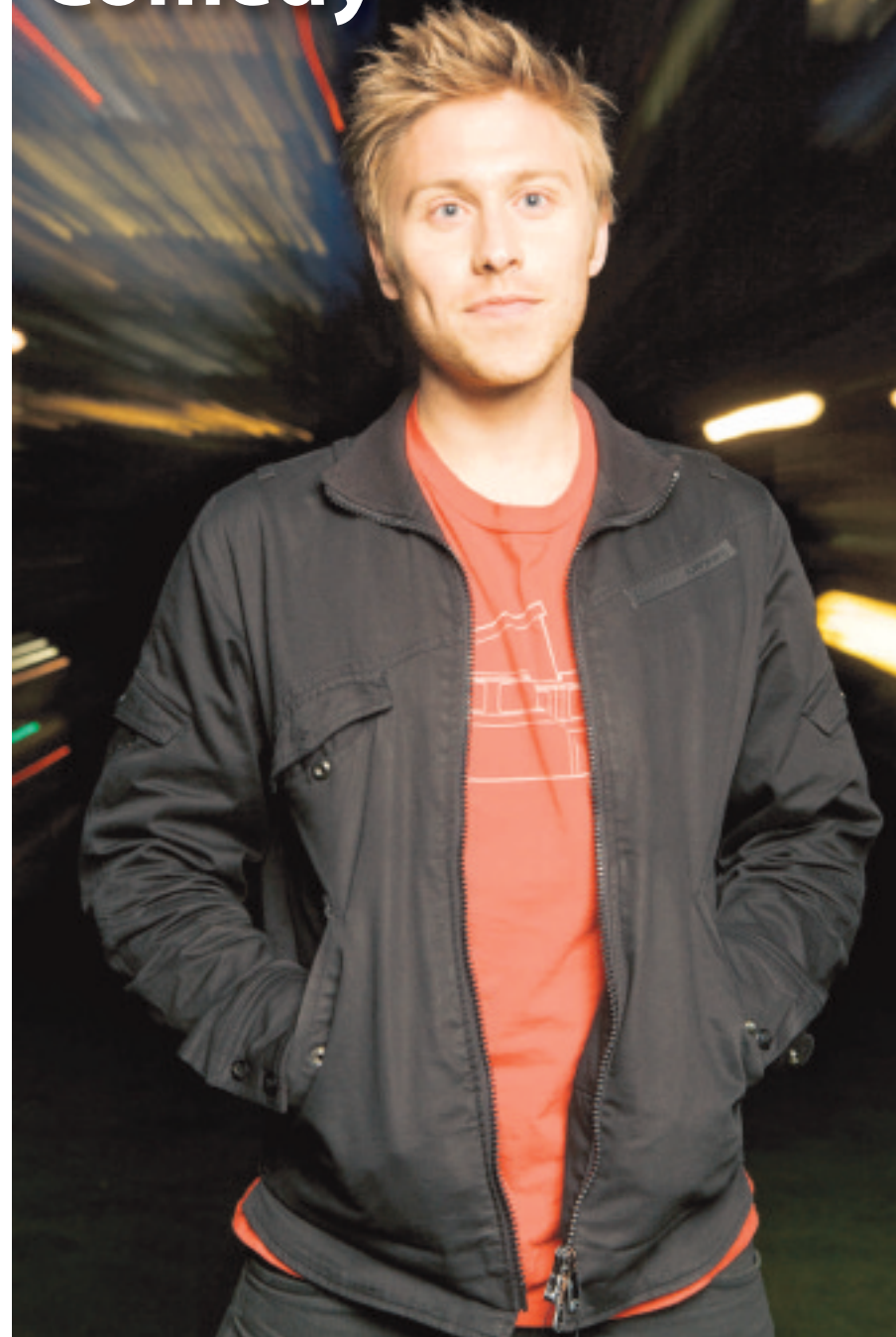
The evening closed with thanks from Louise Collier, one of the All Saints Church Wardens, congratulating the students on a beautiful evening and their ability to provide such a class performance to the local community. Jeremy Bibb, a local resident said that "It was like listening to Classic FM".

Over £500 was raised for the Church Tower Fund.



Going Out Gigs

Russell Howard to headline Electric Comedy



ELECTRIC Comedy brings the absolute biggest stars in comedy to the beautiful stage of Bridport's Electric Palace every month. With previous guests including Lee Mack, Ardal O' Hanlon, Reginald D Hunter, Chris Addison and countless more it simply is the best place to catch the countries funniest people.

Kickstarting 2011, Electric Comedy is extremely proud to welcome back Mock the Week comedy megastar **Russell Howard** on Monday, January 10th.

Russell is one of the UK's most successful, hilarious and exciting live comedians in the world, performing to more than 58,000 fans over nine nights on his last UK arena tour, which saw the comic visit some of the county's biggest venues, including Wembley Arena and the Manchester Evening News Arena.

Known to millions from Mock The Week, Russell is also the star of his very own BBC3 show 'Russell Howard's Good News'. The show has become the most watched show in the channels history and also one of the most requested shows on the Iplayer.

Russell now heads back to the Electric Palace for an extremely rare intimate warm-up show ahead of his biggest ever sold out arena tour in February 'Right Here, Right Now'.

Joining Russell for this simply unmissable night is the wonderfully dry Dan Atkinson and the return of yarn-spinning resident host Craig Campbell.

Tickets, costing £15, go on sale on Wednesday, January 5th exclusively from Bridport Music (01308 425707).

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An exhibition of new paintings by Diane Burnell. Her colourful abstract work was painted in a large container at Ark Removals, Taunton, courtesy of the owner Mike Crook. This exhibition is a tribute to his support and generosity.

TRUTH in the Cafe

Tuesday 4th January - Saturday 15th January 2011
Open Daily (except Sunday). Free entry.

We are pleased to extend Andrea Rowbotham's exhibition into the New Year. The painter's current work reflects and responds to a solitary week walking and climbing in Wales. Her work is abstract and represents a visual paradox of landscape and body.

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weekenderlife DIARY DATES

SATURDAY JANUARY 8TH 2011

CREWKERNE: Crewkerne Heritage Centre Coffee Morning 10am - midday. All welcome.

THURSDAY JANUARY 13TH 2011

NORTH PERROTT: Yoga - Mixed Abilities at North Perrott Village Hall from 7.30pm - 9.00pm. Telephone 01297 77398 for more details. Weekly from this date.

SATURDAY JANUARY 15TH 2011

ILMINSTER: U-Carmen e-Khayelitsha at Warehouse Theatre from 7.30pm. Tickets cost £8 available by calling 01460 52699.

SATURDAY JANUARY 22ND 2011

CHARD: Peace Vigil at Holyrood Street, from 11am - 12noon.

TUESDAY JANUARY 25TH 2011

ILMINSTER: South Somerset Peace Group public meeting with a talk from Faysal Mikdadi. In the Minster Rooms, Ilminster at 7.30pm. All welcome, entry £3 inc tea/coffee.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26TH 2011

TATWORTH: Craft Workshop 'Wonder Scarf' at Tatworth Memorial Hall from 1pm - 5pm. Organised by Tatworth and Forton RAG Active Living. Telephone 01460 220339 or 01460 220198 for more details.

FRIDAY JANUARY 28TH 2011

TATWORTH: Film: 'Tamara Drewe' at Tatworth Memorial Hall, organised by T&F Movies. Doors open 7.30pm with doors opening at 8pm. Telephone 01404 220198 for more details.

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Going Out Film This week's new releases

ROMANTIC comedy **Love and Other Drugs**¹⁵, starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Anne Hathaway and Hank Azaria is released this week.

Maggie (Hathaway) is an alluring free spirit who won't let anyone - or anything - tie her down. But she meets her match in Jamie (Gyllenhaal), whose relentless and nearly infallible charm serve him well with the ladies and in the cutthroat world of pharmaceutical sales. Maggie and Jamie's evolving relationship takes



them both by surprise, as they find themselves under the influence of the ultimate drug: love.

CRIME drama **The Next Three Days**^{12A}, starring Russell Crowe, Elizabeth Banks and Liam Neeson is released on Wednesday (January 5th)

Lara Brennan (Banks) is arrested for murdering her boss whom she had an argument with. It seems she was seen leaving the scene of the crime and her fingerprints were on the murder weapon. Her husband, John (Crowe) would spend the next few years trying to get her released but there's no evidence that negates the evidence against her. And when the strain of being separated from her family especially her son gets to her, John decides to break her out. So he does a lot of research to find a way.



Forthcoming Events in Chard Guildhall

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PLEASE NOTE: This is a free service and whilst we endeavour to include all entries, we cannot guarantee all listings submitted will be published. Please use one form per event you wish to submit.

**WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE DIARY DATES LISTINGS OVER THE PHONE
Deadline for postal / e-mail entries is Wednesday, 12noon**

Going Out Gigs

THE KINGS OF SWING

THE Ratpack Vegas Spectacular brings a full professional stage show to the Taunton's BREwhouse Theatre for one night only on Friday, January 7th, recreating the fun Vegas atmosphere of The Sands in the

swingin' 60s with three great singers with class and style, a full orchestra, beautiful show girls and many incredible songs!

The first half sees each artist take centre stage individually –

Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr and then old blue eyes, Frank Sinatra.

After the interval the party really kicks into top gear with all three in party mood.

As well as the original Sands

tunes, the show also features some of the singers' biggest songs that were written after their years at The Sands. Classic Sinatra with My Way and New York New York and Sammy's signature tune Mr Bojangles.

The show is so slick that the singers are able to be spontaneous and off the cuff, keeping the show fresh with a new performance each and every night. Fun is the name of the game and the audience always leave

with a big smile.

Tickets cost £14.50 - £17.50, and are available from the box office on 01823 283244. For more details you can visit the website at www.thebrewhouse.net

Going Out Gigs

Alexandra Burke for Bristol gig

ALEXANDRA Burke, winner of the X Factor in 2008 performs at Colston Hall, Bristol on Tuesday, January 25th.

To book tickets or for more details visit www.colstonhall.org or call 0117 922 3686

**Going Out Gigs**

A great tribute to the Man In Black at the Brewhouse Theatre

CLIVE John brings his show, 'The Johnny Cash Roadshow' to Taunton's Brewhouse Theatre on Thursday, January 6th.

Clive and his band deliver an energetic, entertaining tribute to the Man In Black, with the set list including all of Cash's great songs including Ring of Fire, Man In Black and Boy Named Sue.

Tickets for the show cost £15 and are available from the box office on 01823 283244. The show starts at 7.45pm.

For more details visit www.thebrewhouse.net.



Clive John as Johnny Cash

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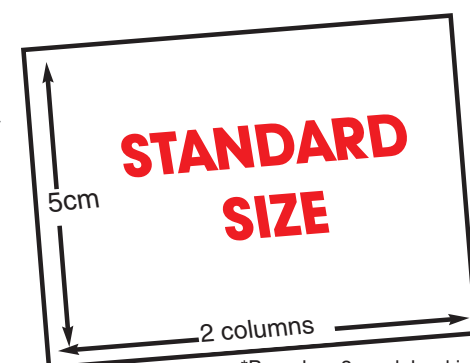
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Mazda targets motability drivers and driving schools with new Mazda2 automatic

- **Mazda2 Automatic launched due to significant customer demand**
- **Automatic could become one of the best-selling derivatives**
- **Now nine models to choose from in upgraded Mazda2 range**

THE significantly up-graded Mazda2 range has gone on sale and now includes an automatic model. Mazda expects the new Mazda2 Automatic to prove so

popular, particularly with Motability drivers and driving schools, that it will quickly become one of the best-selling variants of its acclaimed supermini

range.

The Mazda2 has always been in demand from those who lease a car through the Motability Scheme, and the arrival of the Mazda2 Automatic will increase this trend. To build on the anticipated sales impetus, the Mazda2 Automatic will feature in Mazda's special driving school programme, alongside the lower-medium sector Mazda3.

The programme is

aimed specifically at the 17,000 qualified driving instructors who are self-employed or work for small driving schools across the UK. Anecdotal evidence suggests that many newly qualified drivers go on to purchase either new or second-hand a car similar to the one in which they received driving lessons.

The new five-door automatic Mazda2 is badged 'TS2 Automatic' and sees a four-speed automatic transmission mated to the 1.5-litre engine, which returns 44.8mpg with CO2 emissions of 146g/km. The model costs £12,370* on the road.

The newly launched nine-strong line-up of three-door and five-door Mazda2 hatchbacks costing from £10,305* on the road offers customers a choice of three petrol and one

diesel powertrains, and four generous equipment levels.

The petrol engine line-up features a 1.3-litre with power outputs of either 75ps or 84ps and a 1.5-litre 102ps. The diesel engine is a 1.6 litre 95ps. Trim levels are TS, TS2, Tamura and Sport.

New features appearing across the entire up-graded Mazda2 range deliver significant improvements to interior comfort, ride quality, handling and refinement.

Mark Cameron, Sales Director at Mazda UK believes that the new 'Mazda2 Automatic' is certain to expand the appeal of Mazda's smallest car. "The Mazda2 Automatic has been launched due to significant public demand. We expect it to become one of the best-selling Mazda2 derivatives,

helped by demand from Motability drivers and sales generated by our driving schools programme."

Standard equipment on the Mazda2 range has always been unusually generous for a B-segment supermini. The upgraded line-up means that every model

now comes with remote central locking, air-conditioning, electric front windows, electric door mirrors, a piano-black centre stack, CD radio with auxiliary jack and a Thatcham Category 1 alarm.

Moving up the range, TS2 models (which include the new auto-

matic) feature 15-inch alloy wheels, side and curtain airbags, leather steering wheel with audio controls, two additional audio speakers, 60/40 split rear seats, trip computer with speed alarm and (on the Automatic) Dynamic Stability Control (DSC).



▲ Upgraded Mazda2 1.5 TS2 Automatic



▲ Upgraded Mazda2 1.3 TS2 Automatic

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Further recognition rounds off a great 2010 for Škoda

- Škoda Superb Estate named Best Estate in Daily Express' Motoring Oscars
- Superb Estate and Fabia vRS listed in MSN Cars' Best Cars of 2010
- Record UK sales and market share mark 2010 as most successful ever year

As a great 2010 for Škoda draws to a close, the Superb Estate has attracted recognition from both the Daily Express and MSN Cars, who also listed the Fabia vRS amongst its Best Cars of 2010.

The Superb Estate was named Best Estate in the

Daily Express' Motoring Oscars 2010, as Nat Barnes explains: "Superb Estate has a huge 1,865-litre boot. Better still, prices start at just £17,720, undercutting the massive Mercedes E-Class by more than 12 grand. You won't find more metal for your

money."

Similarly, Richard Acock chose the Superb Estate in MSN Cars' Best Cars of 2010 list, describing it as "Big and inexpensive, economical and swift, well-built and well equipped, it has it all. And then there's the breathtakingly large 1,865-litre boot."

The Superb Estate is no stranger to praise, with hit Channel 5 show, Fifth Gear naming the Superb Estate its Family Car of the Year 2010 ear-

lier this month, while Auto Express crowned it Best Estate Car in its New Car Awards 2010.

Meanwhile, the hot Fabia vRS also made MSN's list. "I had no preconceptions about the vRS, but within 100 metres I was smitten," says Peter Burgess of the vRS. "The 180hp supercharged and turbocharged 1.4 is a dream, the DSG transmission superb and the chassis sublime. Simply enormous fun."

This very welcome praise rounds off what has been the most successful year ever for Škoda in the UK, with a raft of product awards for the Octavia, Yeti and Superb. Škoda's other awards in 2010 include Which? Manufacturer of the Year and given the What Car? Reader Award for Best Manufacturer 2010. Škoda also recently came top in the Auto Express Driver Power Survey, while the brand was yet again

ranked in the top 10 manufactures of the JD Power Customer Satisfaction Survey for the

17th consecutive year. These accolades are reflected by record sales, with more than

40,000 sold in the UK so far this year, increasing overall market share to over 2%.



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streetdigest**As they stand**

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Merriott Rovers	9	8	0	1	36	17	24
South Petherton	7	7	0	0	36	7	21
Beaminster	8	7	0	1	25	5	21
Lyme Regis	6	4	1	1	18	8	13
Ilminster Res	5	4	0	1	10	7	12
Barrington	9	2	3	4	22	29	9
Farway United	7	2	1	4	20	24	7
Misterton	9	1	3	5	14	33	6
Perry Street	7	1	1	5	10	19	4
W & M Chinnock	7	0	2	5	9	30	2
Combe Reserves	10	0	1	9	12	33	1

DIVISION ONE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Winsham Utd	7	7	0	0	27	8	21
Crewkerne	8	6	1	1	35	12	19
Millwey Rise	6	5	1	0	28	6	16
Netherbury	7	5	0	2	24	13	15
Perry Street Res	6	4	0	2	18	21	12
Thorncombe	11	4	0	7	20	33	12
Forton Rangers	8	3	1	4	19	22	10
Norton Ath	9	3	1	5	17	28	10
Ilminster Colts	9	3	0	6	21	34	9
Lyme Regis Res	8	1	2	5	14	19	5
Charmouth	9	0	0	9	8	35	0

DIVISION TWO	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beaminster Res	10	7	2	1	39	16	23
Hinton	9	6	0	3	25	20	18
Crewkerne Rang	10	5	2	3	29	26	17
Shepton Beau	8	4	4	0	21	9	16
Dowlis & Don	10	5	1	4	26	19	16
Uplyme	10	4	2	4	43	25	14
S.Petherton Res	9	3	2	4	21	20	11
Hawkchurch	10	3	1	6	23	31	10
Forton Reserves	8	1	1	6	13	39	4
Chard Rangers	8	0	1	7	13	39	1

DIVISION THREE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Misterton Res	8	8	0	0	35	12	24
Luso-Chard	10	7	0	3	48	17	21
Chard United	10	6	2	2	32	15	20
Crewkerne Res	8	6	0	2	43	30	18
Combe A	10	4	1	5	21	27	13
Farway Reserves	10	3	2	5	14	40	11
Drimpton	9	2	3	4	13	40	9
Lyme Bantams	10	2	2	6	16	23	8
Winsham Utd Res	8	1	1	6	18	32	4
Millwey Rise Res	9	1	1	7	12	26	4

DIVISION FOUR	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hinton Res	9	7	1	1	37	16	22
Shepton Res	11	6	1	4	30	30	19
W & M Chinn Res	8	6	0	2	49	17	18
Combe B	9	6	0	3	30	26	18
Waytown Hounds	7	5	0	2	21	16	15
Chard Utd Res	10	4	1	5	25	30	13
Ilminster A*	9	4	0	5	35	24	11
Thorncombe Res	8	3	1	4	11	18	10
Barrington Res	8	2	2	4	19	25	8
Hawkchurch Res	11	1	2	8	14	46	5
Chard Rang Res	8	1	0	7	13	36	3

(* = Point deducted)

Top Scorers**PREMIER:** Scott Jennings (Merriott Rovers) 15, Marcus Alexander (South Petherton), Jon Hayter (both South Petherton) 11.**DIVISION ONE:** Tim Hussey (Hawkchurch United) 18, Sam Dibling (Millwey Rise) 13, Paul Gold, Jamie Spurdie, Barry Hayne (all Crewkerne Town) 11.**DIVISION TWO:** Dan Pyett (Beaminster Reserves) 14, Alex Cottle and Gavin Fowler (both Uplyme), 12, Josh Hunter (Beaminster Reserves) 11.**DIVISION THREE:** Marco Quedas (Luso-Chard) 24, Neil Hawkins (Misterton Res) 16, Aaron Hodges (Crewkerne Reserves), Ricky Smith (Misterton Reserves) 13.**DIVISION FOUR:** Ashley Cooper (W & M Chinnock Res) 16, Will Aplin (Shepton Beauchamp Reserves) 15, Dan Rudge (W & M Chinnock Reserves) 13. (Excl Chard Hospital Cup).**STREET SCENE****HOWARD LARCOMBE**
reporting on the
Perry Street League

League still hoping for county cup treble

CUPS ROUND-UP**DORSET INTERMEDIATE**

LYME REGIS are safely through to the semi-finals of the Dorset Intermediate cup and will be accompanied by Beaminster if they can overcome Ferndown sports in the quarter-final replay.

DEVON INTERMEDIATE

FARWAY United, the league's only remaining representatives, are scheduled to entertain Exmouth Town Reserves in an Eastern Area semi-final on January 8th.

SOMERSET JUNIOR

HOLDERS South Petherton were gunned down by Bath Arsenal at the last 16 stage.

SOMERSET INTERMEDIATE

THERE'S 'one man standing' in the Junior Cup. Winsham United are due to travel to Tor for a last 16 tie on February 5th.

CHARD HOSPITAL CUP

LYME REGIS 4 Ilminster Town Reserves 0 TWO goals from French striker Julien Simier and singles from Joe Bond and Joel Gostling, celebrating his return from a spell with Axminster Town, secured the Seaside's with their second Chard Hospital cup triumph in three seasons.

CORONATION CUP

LAST season: Lyme Regis 4 (J.Bond 2, Ad Caddy, D.Robinson) South Petherton 0 HOLDERS Lyme Regis were due to meet Perry Street in this season's final at Combe on Monday, December 27th.

Seven-time winners Lyme have disposed of Merriott Rovers 4-2, Combe Reserves 2-1 and Farway United 2-1 along the way.

Meanwhile Street, winners in 1966-67 and 1970-71, saw off Misterton on pens after 2-2 draw, Barrington 2-1 and Ilminster Town Reserves 4-0 last weekend to book their place.

The match was postponed as early as December 23rd with the ground frozen hard. The re-arranged date was still to be confirmed at time of going to press.

CHALLENGE CUP

LAST season: Lyme Regis 2 (D.Rowe, J.Simier) Ilminster Town Reserves 0. Barrington are due to entertain Perry Street in a quarter-final with all the other teams at the first round stage.

ARTHUR GAGE CUP

LAST season: Lyme Regis Reserves 4 (R.Fifer, F.Thomson, J.Hawker, R.Holmes) Perry Street Reserves 0.

Quarter-final draw: Ilminster Colts v Thorncombe, Perry Street Reserves v Netherbury, Crewkerne Town v Millwey Rise or Norton Athletic, Lyme Regis Reserves v Winsham United v Forton Rangers.



■ BEAMINSTER FC are still in with a good chance of landing a place in the Dorset Intermediate Cup semi-final draw, alongside Lyme Regis, and are well placed to mount a challenge for their first Perry Street League Premier Division title for 31 years.

Line-up, back row from left: Tom Fletcher, Will Allen, Sam Crocker, Adam Herring, Dean Newman, Dean Hyett, Richard Runyard, Chris Park. Front: Sam Beaton, Matt Tolman, Dave Penn, Shaun Annetts (manager), Murray Legg (captain), Ben Ward, Chris Rowsell.

Photo by ASHLEY WASON

DIVISION**ONE CUP**

LAST season: Ilminster Town Colts 1 (A.Whaites) Netherbury 0 CREWKERNE Town will face Millwey Rise in the Final at Thorncombe on Monday, January 3rd.

Lyme Regis Reserves beat Millwey 2-1 in the semi-final but were ejected from the competition by a league rule buried deep in the hand book that states players must have played three league matches before being able to take part in a semi-final.

TOMMY TABBERER CUP

LAST season: Dowlis & Donyatt 6 (L.Mears 2, B.Charlton, C.Butler, C.Lang, A.Rich) Forton Rangers Reserves 5 (S.Packer 2, J.Smith, L.Goodland, L.Richardson).

Quarter-final draw: Hinton v Shepton Beauchamp, Crewkerne Rangers v Hawkchurch, Forton Rangers Reserves v Chard Rangers, Uplyme v Beaminster Reserves.

JACK VENN CUP

LAST season: Millwey Rise 3 (M.Hall, D.Larcombe, M.Jenkins) South Petherton Reserves 0.

Quarter-final draw: Crewkerne Rangers v Beaminster Reserves, Dowlis & Donyatt v Hawkchurch

JOHN FOWLER CUP

LAST season: Crewkerne Rangers 5 (S.Denslow 2, A.Tanner 2, T.Broome) Crewkerne Town Reserves 2 (P.Cable 2).

Semi-finals; Luso-Chard v Misterton Reserves, Drimpton v Winsham United Reserves.

United Reserves, Waytown Hounds or Combe B v West & Middle Chinnock Reserves.

BILL BAILEY CUP

LAST season: Fivehead United 4 (K.Crouch 3, T.Callow) Crewkerne Rangers 1 (S.Denslow).

Quarter-final draw; Combe A v Farway United Reserves or Chard United, Luso-Chard v Misterton Reserves, Winsham United Reserves v Lyme Regis Bantams, Drimpton v Millwey Rise Reserves or Crewkerne Town Reserves.

KENNY HODGES CUP

LAST season: Ilminster Town A 4 (L.Woodard, L.Paul, J.House, A.Cox) Winsham United Reserves 3 (R.Long 2, 1pen, P.Stewart).

Quarter-final draw; Shepton Beauchamp Reserves or Waytown Hounds v West & Middle Chinnock Reserves or Barrington Reserves, Chard Rangers Reserves v Chard United Reserves or Thorncombe Reserves, Hawkchurch Reserves v Combe B, Ilminster Town A v Hinton Reserves.

REG EGLON CUP

LAST season: Thorncombe Reserves 4 (K.Smith, D.Rodway, J.Johnson, OG) Waytown Hounds 1 (M.Read). Semi-finals: Barrington Reserves v Chard

DAISY HUTCHINGS CUP

LAST season: West & Middle Chinnock 3 (M.Cawley, N.Eckland, D.Hallett) Lyme Regis Reserves 2 (F.Thomson, L.Street).

A FIXTURE pile-up last season resulted in the PSL reducing the number of rounds by excluding teams from Division One in addition to the Premier Division.

The teams are currently at the last 16 stage.

PICK OF THE LEAGUE NEWS

FIVE Lyme Regis players were selected in new manager Karl Diment's first pick-of-the-league squad.

Beaminster players were excluded as they were due to play against Ferndown Sports in the Dorset Intermediate Cup quarter-final replay.

As it was, the game, like all the others in the PSL fixtures list, was postponed.

Full squad: Adam Berry, Jack Jennings both (both Merriott Rovers), Sam Dibling, Matt Hall (both Millwey Rise), Adam Caddy, Matt Laing, Joel Gostling, Mark Bailey, Dom Rowe (all Lyme Regis), Lee Richards, Danny Rendall, Sam Bourne, Mark Tierney, Jon Hayter, Karl Diment (all South Petherton).



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Weekender Sport puts Merriott Rovers' defender Jack Jennings... ON THE SPOT - see page 31

RUGBY REVIEW

Satisfactory season for all so far

I WOULD hazard a guess that, if pressed, both local rugby clubs would admit to being pretty satisfied with their respective seasons to date.

The CHARD first side, having suffered the agonising experience of losing a promotion play-off at the end of last season, I think started this campaign with the avowed intention of not going through that horrid experience again. They strengthened their squad and have played good rugby from day one and currently lie in the division's second place.

They have lost but once, and that was a close defeat at top side Weston Hornets on a day when they got their tactics marginally wrong and did not play to their strengths as they should. They have drawn twice, against the side in second place, Minehead Barbarians, and at Avon two sides who are not renowned for giving much away.

The current placings at the top of the Somerset Premier Division leads one to believe that Hornets will have to implode if they are to be over taken at the top. Chard who lie in second place, have the Minehead club clinging to

By Keith Jenkin

their coat tails, just a four points behind them, while Avon and Wells are fourth and fifth, and seemingly, quite capable of overturning anyone's appecart.

Realistically speaking, I cannot see the Denning Field contingent ending the season as champions but, if they mind their trade they can certainly clinch a play off place and, with their most positive points differential, can ensure a home tie. That would be an occasion and a half!

Over the hill the CREWKERNE club continues to make progress. Suffering from the joint handicaps of a weak youth policy, coupled with the fact that little rugby is played at the local school, it has struggled over recent seasons as regulars have retired and have not been replaced.

Captained positively by Luke Hill it now occupies a position in the mid table of the Somerset league Division Two (South), having played fewer games than its near neighbours and, incidentally, making me look just a little

silly as I had forecast its involvement in a relegation battle.

Importantly too, the denizens of Henhayes seem to be enjoying their rugby again and I expect them to use this season as one of consolidation, and to make a tilt at a promotion place next year. This would appear to be a realistic target for them and, if they can retain their current squad, who knows!

The Chard second side too competes in the Somerset league Division Two (South) and is, moreover vying for a promotion place.

It's tight at the top however, with Castle Cary holding first place some ten points clear and with no less than four sides behind them who are within a couple of points of each other. The second-half of the season could well be an interesting period for Chard seconds.

Chard thirds, generally speaking, are slow starters, and this year was no different. They have regrouped after withdrawing from their first league fixture and have climbed into their division's mid table.

Chard Skittles

NOMINATION League					
Group One:					
	P	W	D	L	Pts
Hatch Beagles	5	4	0	1	45
Flying Turkeys	5	4	0	1	42
Wyndham Arms	5	2	0	3	29
Hatch Eggs	4	1	0	3	12
Kings Head	3	0	0	3	4
Group Two: Ashill Inn 227-10 (N.Dopson 46, D.Hoare 16) Ashill Boys 210-2 (B.Smart 34, G.Keitch 19).					
	P	W	D	L	Pts
Ashill Inn	5	4	0	0	52
Donyatt BC	5	1	0	4	24
Royal Oak	4	2	0	2	22
Carnival Clingons	3	2	0	1	21
Ashill Boys	6	1	0	5	13
Group Three:					
	P	W	D	L	Pts
Nomads	3	3	0	0	32
Cricketers	5	2	0	3	27
Royals	3	2	0	1	24
Bell Clangers	3	0	0	3	1
Group Four:					
	P	W	D	L	Pts
Crown Faces	4	2	0	2	26
Bell A	3	2	0	1	21
Rockey's Rollers	4	2	0	2	22
Bell Broadway	3	1	0	2	14

SPORTS BRIEFS...

Chard Bowling

Afternoon triples League

THE Greyhounds overcame Somerset Six in a close game by 12 shots to 9 - a result which sees them take top spot in the League.

East Coker A beat Westway 15-8 to move up to second place on shot difference.

Table	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Greyhounds	7	6	0	1	30	12
East Coker A	7	6	0	1	14	12
Westway	6	4	0	2	4	8
Maggies	8	4	0	4	4	8
Hurricanes	8	4	0	4	-1	8
Somerset Six	9	2	0	7	-19	4
Canaries	7	0	0	7	-32	0

FOOTBALL - SOMERSET SENIOR

Second place beckons for Ilminster Town

By Howard Larcombe

NOW that the arctic weather conditions appear to have relented for the time being Chard Town can once again look to continue their climb up the Toolstation Western League Division One.

The Robins had a good December despite the disruptions; a 3-2 win at Calne Town together with a 2-1 home victory over Bradford Town has seen 14th spot in the table secured.

Manager Glynn Shaw and his squad now have two home matches on the immediate horizon, both against teams now below them in the league; Elmore on Bank Holiday Monday (11am) kick-off and Keynsham Town the following Saturday (3pm).

Both sets of visiting defences will no doubt be keeping a close eye on Chard striker Sam Clark whose six goals in four games since returning from injury have seen him move up to joint third in the Division One top scorers' chart with 13.

Toolstation Div One	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oldland Abbotonians	19	14	3	2	52	20	45
Methyr Town	18	14	2	2	57	19	44
Bridport	15	11	1	3	36	16	34
Gillingham Town	19	10	2	7	34	28	32
Cadbury Heath*	17	9	4	4	43	24	30
Hengrove Athletic	18	9	3	6	34	25	30
Shrewton United	18	8	4	6	41	34	28
Bradford Town	18	8	3	7	35	35	27
Devizes Town	18	9	0	9	32	46	27
Melksham Town	15	7	4	4	24	19	25
Calne Town*	18	8	3	7	43	30	23
Shepton Mallet	21	7	1	13	27	49	22
Almondsbury	19	5	5	9	31	39	20
CHARD TOWN	19	4	5	10	28	43	17
Elmore	19	5	0	14	33	65	15
Roman Glass SG	18	4	2	12	19	44	14
Keynsham Town	14	3	4	7	19	25	13
Portishead Town	17	3	3	11	24	42	12
(* = points deducted)							
ILMINSTER Town are another side without a run-out since December 11th. Darren Manley's side are seri-							

ous promotion contenders in the Somerset League Division One having picked up 15 points from a possible 18 despite having, at times, a somewhat thin squad.

Manley has seen his numbers increase of late and the team appear perfectly placed on the shoulders' of leaders Berrow and second-placed Frome Collegians.

The first fixture of the New Year pitches the Blues on the road against midtable Cleve West Town. Ilminster will be hunting their first league double of the season having won the reverse fixture with goals from Jamie Green and a penalty from Manley back in the November.

With the Frome Students facing a tough looking trip to fourth placed Odd Down Reserves - The Blues could be sitting proudly in second spot come Monday afternoon.

Division One (Top)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Berrow	14	10	2	2	38	25	32
Frome Collegians	14	8	3	3	36	21	27
ILMINSTER TOWN	13	8	2	3	24	16	26
Odd Down Res	15	8	2	5	27	23	26
Nailsea Town	12	6	4	2	28	14	22
Bishop Sutton Res	15	6	4	5	39	28	22
Weston St Johns	13	6	3	4	36	25	21
Burnham United	13	4	7	2	29	17	19
TWO home wins in five days could see Combe St Nicholas hit the heady heights of third in the Somerset Division Two (West) table.							
The Saints entertain struggling Long Ashton on Monday (11am) and Westland United, currently seventh, the following Saturday.							
Division Two West (Top)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ashton & Backwell Res	15	11	1	3	44	22	34
Congesbury	12	10	2	0	32	7	32
Yatton Athletic	14	9	2	3	54	22	29
Wells City Res	14	7	4	3	31	21	25
COMBE St NICHOLAS	12	8	1	3	21	18	25
Churchill Club 70	13	5	3	5	32	32	18
Westland United Res	12	5	3	4	18	25	18

sportsdigest

Crewkerne Skittles League

DIVISION ONE	Pld	Pts
Lost Boys	11	105
Muddled Men	11	89
Super Sexy Six*	11	85
Headhunters	11	82
The Fryers	11	70
King Willy Dogs	11	70
Disney	11	62
Rollers	11	54
Coachmen	11	51
Sports 92	11	45
Royal Oak Drimpton	11	39
Swann Fokkers	11	34
DIVISION TWO	Pld	Pts
Football Club	11	87
Pinbusters	11	87
Brewers Bees	11	80
Rug Rats	11	73
Skimmers	11	72
Nomads	11	72
Swan Cobs	11	65
Concorde	11	61
Coombe Boys	11	60
Kings Head B	11	47
Willy Low Flyers	11	45
Loud & Proud	11	43

DIVISION THREE	Pld	Pts
Numpties	11	85
Perrott Monkeys	11	85
Royal Oak A	11	80
Swan Fixers	11	73
Con Club Legends	11	72
Contwistadors	11	70
Motley Crew	11	67
Chis Colts	11	65
Sandbaggers	11	56
Dinnington Astros*	10	47
Hung Like Horses	11	45
Muppets*	10	23
(* = Points deducted due to cancelled games).		

Chard & District 801 & pairs darts

PREMIER	P	W	L	+/-	+/-
Workies	11	11	0	8	47
Very Happy Lot	11	8	3	19	36
Ruts Crown Jest	10	7	3	20	30
BDBs	10	4	6	23	27
Clubbers	11	6	5	29	26
Hobnobs	11	5	6	32	23
Hopefuls	11	4	7	35	20
Slaps Lot	11	3	8	35	20
Phoenix Poppes	9	3	6	26	19
Pop Darts	11	2	9	38	17
DIVISION ONE	P	W	L	+/-	+/-
Pirates	11	9	2	18	37
Happy Sharks	11	7	4	20	35
Pig Jockeys	11	8	3	22	33
Green Army	11	6	5	25	30
Madhouse Crew	10	5	5	22	28
Stumpy's Gang	11	7	4	27	28
PAs	11	4	7	32	23
Double Trouble	11	3	8	35	20
The Downs	10	3	7	30	20
Furnham Flights	11	2	9	39	16
DIVISION TWO	P	W	L	+/-	+/-
High 4 1/2	11	7	4	15	40
Two Minute Crew	10	8	2	19	31
Dix with Chicks	11	6	5	25	30
Cassies Crew	11	7	4	25	30
Winning team	12	7	5	31	29
Furnham Finest	9	6	3	18	27
Red Devils	11	4	7	31	24
Bs Knees	11	4	7	32	23
Dizzy Tarts	12	3	9	39	21
Three in a bed	10	2	8	35	15

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Chard 3rd XV



■ **CHARD 3rd XV** who will be looking forward to returning to action early in 2011. Line-up, front row from left: Stuart Sugar, James Gammage, Mike Berry, Dan Vernon, Clive Adams (captain) Bret Hoare, Matt Ousley, Simon Ousley. Back row, Billy Vernon, Richard Jones, Wayne Lewis, Richard Lane, Mike Summers, Richard Lovelock, Ryan Knight, and Danny Crabb, Kevin Templeman, Dan Ousley.

Photo by Keith Rendell

More postponements - but things look brighter for local stable

HEAVY snow put paid to the national hunt Boxing Day programme writes *Stuart Broom*.

However things are looking brighter for Crewkerne-based trainer Bob Buckler's stable despite still not being able to find that winner that will break their current poor run.

Mizzurka who produced some exhilarating runs in bumpers last season to earn herself the much coveted 'black type' which enhances her breeding value considerably, made her debut over fences and finished a very creditable fourth behind two highly regarded horses in the Happy Christmas Mares' Novices' Hurdle at Exeter last Thursday.

Ridden by the newly-crowned BBC Sports Personality of the Year and Champion jockey A P McCoy,

she didn't disgrace herself despite running a bit green.

"She was a little bit uncertain going over fences for the first time, so we dropped her out at the back to start with," said Buckler.

"She ran well but was up against two very good horses in Naughty Naughty and Kim Bailey's Silver Gypsy who won it, so fourth was a good result. AP who kept her in touch on the inside was delighted with her and said she did everything right and will come on for the run."

John's Gift making his debut over fences in the Vote A.P. McCoy For BBC Sports Personality Novices' Chase on the same card ran what Buckler described as 'a perfect run'.

Starting the 66/1 outsider of a field of eight, he made a few jumping mistakes to finish sixth. "He learned a lot from the race which is the main thing, and although he made a few mistakes the race did him the power of good."

Power Lord did well on his track debut, finishing fifth in the Free Bets At gg.com Novices' Hurdle at Towcester on the same day.

In very sticky ground the three-year-old ridden by Nathan Sweeney allowed the field to get away, but got back into it with some good jumping and was staying on at the end.

"It was a promising debut," said Buckler. "He jumped pretty well but for one hurdle and was staying on at the end, so we are quite hopeful."

The testing ground however put paid to **Ready Or Not**, another one making his debut over fences. Hampered at the first when he pecked, he started to make an impression but eventually the ground conditions got the better of him and he was pulled up two from home.

Mister Matt put in a decent performance at Newbury in the Powersolve Electronics Greatwood Charity Handicap Chase over 2 ¼ miles finishing a not too distant eighth.

"He did OK in a high class race and will come on for the run," added Buckler.

The Henley trainer hoped that racecourses would act sensibly about cancelling fixtures over Christmas.

"Boxing Day is big for all of the tracks that have fixtures, but I hope they will be sensible and think of everyone in making decisions about calling racing off early if there is no prospect.

"Trainers up and down the country will be working hard to prepare horses for the races, and it will be annoying for us all if we work flat out for no real purpose, particularly if cards are called off very late when there was no real chance it was going ahead."

Buckler has yet to decide which of his horses will be running, but expects entries at Wincanton and Fontwell, weather permitting.

Free for local sports clubs - email howard@pemedia.co.uk

sportsNOTICEBOARD

■ CHARD FLYER

A BRAND new 10K road run has been organised for the energetic folk of Chard and the surrounding areas. The 'Chard Flyer' will take place at 11am on New Year's Day. Runners must register at Chard Cricket Club - entry is through Chard Road Runners (chardflyer@hotmail.co.uk) who are organising the event.

■ CREWKERNE BADMINTON

CREWKERNE Hermitage Badminton Club play at Wadham School sports hall on Friday evenings between 8pm and 10pm.

The club offers both full and half season memberships as well as pay and play option.

New members are always welcome for further

information contact Martin Hooper (01460 78026) or simply drop in on a Friday evening.

■ TAUNTON RACECOURSE

The next raceday is scheduled for Monday, January 10th. First race is 1pm and the last is 4.15pm. For further details ring 01823 337172.

■ CHARD JU-JITSU

CHARD Spirit Combat Ju-Jitsu Club welcome new members. The club trains at Avishayes Primary School, Chard, on Monday evenings between 5.30pm and 7pm.

For further details contact instructor Gavin Moore on 01460 65794 or g.moore147@btinternet.com

ON THE SPOT...



WEEKENDER SPORT PUTS MERRIOTT ROVERS' DEFENDER JACK JENNINGS, UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Q How long have you been involved in the Perry Street League - in what capacities? who have you play for?

A I started Perry Street League football at 13-years-old with two seasons years at Merriott Rovers. I then moved to Ilminster Town and had another year there then when I got into the Ilminster first team. I've also played for Chard Town under 18s.

Q Name the three best players you've played alongside.

A Neil Martin who now plays for Dorchester Town - played with him all through youth football. **Andy Paull** - when I played for Merriott at 13 and 14-years-old and **Chris Neziyanya** (Ilminster Town)

Q What are your hopes Merriott this season?

A To finish in the top two finish and to win a cup.

Q How would you improve things at the club?

A New changing rooms are obviously a must, and establishing Merriott as a football club rather than just a football team.

Q Who are your tips for the title and bottom two in the PSL Premier Division this season?

A Obviously I want us to win it but South Petherton are probably favourites and Combe Reserves and West and Middle Chinock to go down.

Q Name some young Merriott Rovers players we should look out for in the future.

A Tom Case Matt Bullock Craig Lodge

NEXT WEEK: Perry Street striker Stuart Packer.

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